ABSTRACT

A data management system for duplicating
specific data initially located at a main server in
at least one other server within a common data
network. When a user requests the specific data from
the main server, the main server instructs the end
user to request the specific data from a particular
server that not only contains a copy of the specific
data but also fulfills a certain set of criteria.
Such criteria may be based on the physical distance
between a particular server and the end user, or the
number of hubs in a preferred path between a
particular server and the end user. The present
invention is useful for placing data, such as
multimedia content, that is streamed from a source to
a destination. When positioning multimedia content,
the physical proximity of the source to the
destination is an important factor. The main server
will select a first multimedia server to receive a
copy of the multimedia content based on the physical
proximity of the first multimedia server to each end
user requesting the multimedia content.